THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840

"*And now, because ye are compelled to be humble blessed are ye; for a man sometimes, if he is compelled to be humble, seeketh repentance; and now surely, whosoever repenteth shall find mercy; and he that findeth mercy and endureth to the end the same shall be saved.*" BOOK OF MORMON, ALMA 32: 13.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE CHURCH*

PRESIDENT HEBER J. GRANT

IT HAS BEEN customary at the April Conference to make announcements and to read some statistics. We regret the absence of Apostle Reed Smoot. I have a telegram from him reading as follows: "I send greetings to the Saints assembled at the General Conference. Allie's serious sickness only thing that prevents my presence. Blessing of God is the only power that can save her. I would appreciate the faith and prayers of the people assembled, asking our Heavenly Father to grant, if it is His will, that she be given further life with renewed health and strength.—Reed Smoot."

The Presiding Patriarch is absent on account of ill health.

As you all know, Elder James E. Talmage is presiding over the European Mission, and cannot, therefore, be with us. I regret, on account of the serious illness of a daughter of Brother Joseph W. McMurrin, that he also is absent. All the rest of the General Authorities of the Church are in attendance to-day.

CHANGES IN MISSIONS, STAKES AND WARDS

There has been a change in the Presidency of the Lethbridge Stake, President Hugh B. Brown being honourably released, and Asael E. Palmer appointed President; a change also in the Maricopa Stake, J. W. Lesueur being honourably released and James Robert Price being sustained as President.

Changes and releases in the mission field: John H. Anderson has been released as President of the Swedish Mission, and

*Address delivered at the opening session of the Ninety-seventh Annual Conference, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah, April 3, 1927.

Andrew Johnson appointed to succeed him. Ernest LeRoy Butler has been released as President of the Samoan Mission, and Willard L. Smith appointed as President. Brigham S. Young has been released as President of the Northwestern States Mission, and William L. Smith appointed as his successor. Joseph Quinney, Jr. has been released as President of the Canadian Mission, and Charles H. Hart appointed as his successor. Brigham H. Roberts has been released as President of the Eastern States Mission, and Henry H. Rolapp appointed as his successor.

New wards have been organized: Kimball Ward, St. Joseph Stake; Cedar Third Ward, Parowan Stake; Manila Ward, Lyman Stake; Lankershim Ward, Los Angeles Stake; Littlefield Ward, Moapa Stake; Ogden Twentieth Ward, Ogden Stake; and the Graham and Hibbard Wards in the St. Joseph Stake have been combined.

We mourn the loss of the following Bishops since our last meeting: John A. Hunt of St. Charles Ward, Bear Lake Stake; Edgar O. Neilson of Cleveland Ward, Bannock Stake; Edwin D. Olpin of Pleasant Grove First Ward, Alpine Stake; and John J. Burgner of Darby Ward, Teton Stake.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Following is a list of expenditures from the tithes of the Church for the year 1926:

Stake and Ward Purposes: There has been returned from the tithes to the stakes and wards for operation, maintenance and building construction, $1,530,243.64.

Education: Expended for the construction and operation of Church Schools, $837,810.47.

Temples: Expended for the construction, maintenance and operation of Temples, $322,500.36.

Charities: For the care of the worthy poor and other charitable purposes, including hospital treatment, $187,570.43.

Missions: For the maintenance and operation of all the missions, and for the erection of places of worship and other buildings in the missions, $738,737.75. Total $3,616,862.65.

There were transferred from the California Mission, at the time of the organization of the Los Angeles Stake of Zion, the Adams Ward Chapel and other chapels to the value of $200,000. The California Mission at the present time owns chapels of a value of over $400,000. The chapel at Oakland is as fine a chapel and holds about as many people as any of our ward chapels in the stakes of Zion. It has been decided to organize another stake of Zion in Northern California, with San Francisco, Oakland and surrounding country to compose that stake.

Other charities: In addition to charities paid from the tithes, as before named, there have also been disbursed the fast offerings,

other charities and assistance rendered by the Relief Society, in the sum of $436,055.44, which amount, added to the $187,570.43 paid from the tithes, makes the total charity assistance rendered by the Church, $623,625.87.

There has been collected by the various wards of the Church and paid to missionaries to assist in their maintenance, $128,299.65.

STATISTICS SHOWING THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH

Church growth: Children blessed and entered on the record of the Church in the stakes and missions, 19,701.

Children baptized in the stakes and missions, 15,024.

Converts baptized and entered on the records of the stakes and missions, 6,663.

There are now 96 stakes of Zion, 915 wards, 77 independent branches connected with the stakes, and 27 missions and 734 branches in the missions.

SOCIAL STATISTICS AND STATISTICS OF MISSIONARY WORK

Birth rate, 31 per thousand.

Marriage rate, 13.9 per thousand.

Death rate, 7.7 per thousand.

Families owning their own homes, 72 per cent.

Persons recommended to the Temples, 58,958, or 6 per cent. more than in 1925.

Missionaries from Zion, December 31, 1926, 2,188. Local missionaries, 72. Engaged in missionary work in stakes, 1,140. Total, 3,400.

The Assistant Historian of the Church, Elder Andrew Jenson, has handed me a compilation of the missionaries that have been in the field from the year 1830 until 1926. The lowest number is 26 missionaries, in the first year of the Church. The highest numbers sent out in any year are 1,313 in 1925, 1,235 in 1926 and 1,211 in 1919. The total is between 35,000 and 40,000 missionaries that have been sent into the field.

VISITS SINCE LAST CONFERENCE

Since our last conference it has fallen to my lot to be actively engaged in visiting some of the stakes of Zion. I have visited the Big Horn section of the country and other sections of Wyoming and Montana. I also visited some of the wards in the San Luis Valley, dedicating a small chapel in Wyoming and one in Denver, Colorado. I visited the St. Joseph, Maricopa and Los Angeles Stakes, and some of the stakes in Utah, holding meetings with the Saints in Arizona and dedicating two chapels there and four in the Los Angeles Stake. I have had the pleasure of holding meetings with the Saints and missionaries in Omaha and Lincoln, Neb., Rock Springs and Green River, Wyoming. This was the first time that I have had the pleasure of being at Lincoln, the capital of Nebraska, or at Green River and Rock Springs. In

addition I have visited a number of the wards in the different stakes here in Utah, dedicating chapels, during the last six months.

THEN AND NOW

There is a most wonderful change in the attitude of the people of the world towards the Latter-day Saints. I find no difficulty whatever in getting publicity in the various papers; and when I travel, in different cities in the east, and west, the north or the south, those who have interviewed me have given correct reports of the interviews. Brother James E. Talmage is also getting splendid publicity in the European papers. He has extensive notices and there seems to be no prejudice in the Press of Great Britain at the present time.

When I was in Europe, as the President of the European Mission, during the entire three years that I was there they published no article that we presented, and no report of a favourable nature was ever published in any of the papers. I call to mind visiting one of the great London papers that had published from seven to ten columns of the vilest statements regarding the Latter-day Saints. I took with me a letter of introduction from the manager of the shipping house in Liverpool with which we had done business for over 60 years, vouching for the integrity, not only of myself but of all my predecessors as the Presidents of the European Mission of the Church. The editors of this paper positively refused to make any retraction of the slanderous articles that they had published, or to publish a single thing that I wrote, announcing that they thought they had published exactly what they ought about the "Mormon" people. I told them that I defied them to find a man who had written any of those articles who could furnish them with a certificate of character, but that I carried with me a certificate of my integrity and honesty, signed by all the non-"Mormon" bankers in Salt Lake City at that time; that I also had letters from bankers and influential business men from New York to San Francisco; that I did not carry with me any recommendation from "Mormon" institutions or from "Mormons." Had I done so, I told the editor, it would be like writing a letter myself: "To Whom It May Concern: The bearer, Heber J. Grant, is honourable. Respectfully, Heber J. Grant." He said: "Never mind your opinion, Mr. Grant, we will not publish anything regarding your people." The gentleman's name happened to be Robinson. As I reached the door and put on my two-story hat—which it is necessary to wear in Europe if you are considered anybody—I turned around, took it off and said: "I understand that your name is Robinson, that the editor-in-chief to whom my letter is written is out of the city." He said: "Yes, that is right." "Are you acquainted with Phil Robinson?" "Yes." "Would you believe anything

and everything that Phil Robinson says about the 'Mormons'?" He said: "I certainly would." I said: "Was he the correspondent of the *London Daily Telegraph*, one of the two greatest"—and I emphasized "greatest" because his paper was not one of the two—"in London?" He said: "He was." "And you would believe everything he wrote?" "I would." "Buy his book entitled *Sinners and Saints* and you will find that everything you have published about the 'Mormons' is a lie, pure and simple. If you can't afford two shillings I will buy the book and present it to you with my compliments." He said: "You astonish me." I said: "You are not the first man who has been astonished when confronted with the truth regarding the 'Mormon' people. I have met your kind from Tokyo, Japan, to London, who have refused to publish the truth about the 'Mormons.'" He said: "Write a half column." I said: "Thanks for small favours, large ones received with greater thanks. Seven to ten columns of falsehood, written against our people, and a half column allowed for refutation!" Within a couple of hours he had the half column. He kept it the usual 30 or 60 days and returned it with the usual printed slip that I have seen many times: "The Editor regrets that he cannot find space for the enclosed manuscript, and it is returned." When I see those "regrets" I cannot help but think of the saying: "Polite lying is an accomplishment. It lubricates business, varnishes unpleasant facts and promotes friendships."

A TRIBUTE FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

Since that time there have been thousands of splendid tributes paid to the Latter-day Saints. I have before me one which was written, I think, seven years ago this coming June. I have never heard it quoted in this Tabernacle, so I am going to read it. It is from Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of the Interior, as I remember, under President Wilson:

> Cross the border, you come down into Utah.
>
> Never speak disrespectfully of the Mormon Church. It has as law-abiding, steady, hard-working, kindly a group of people in Utah as will be found anywhere this round globe over. Brigham Young may not have been a prophet of Almighty God, but he worked a miracle when he crossed from the Missouri river over that desert, leading his band of a few hundred followers with their push-carts, going out into that unknown waste, and turned the land that lies around Salt Lake City into a garden.
>
> I brought from Egypt several years ago the greatest irrigation expert in the world, perhaps, the man who built the Assuan Dam upon the Nile—Sir William Wilcocks, the man who claims to have discovered where the Garden of Eden was located, at the junction of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers—and I sent him to look over the irrigation enterprises of the United States, and he said: "Nowhere else have I seen people

who understand so wisely how to apply water to land as around Salt Lake City."

Utah has wonderful beauty in it as well as great stretches of desert that are to be reclaimed. We have just discovered a new beauty spot there, Bryce Canyon.

And many of them are just discovering Cedar Breaks, Zion Canyon, and the north rim of the Grand Canyon also.

As I stated before, I say again, I rejoice in the change of sentiment of the Press of Great Britain, and the splendid fruits that are attending President James E. Talmage in getting publicity in the newspapers.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

THE WELSH CONFERENCE

On April 24th the Spring Conference of the Welsh District was held in the Memorial Hall at Varteg, Monmouthshire, a small mining town in southern Wales. Goodly numbers of Latter-day Saints, as also many friends and investigators, assembled for the occasion. President James E. Talmage and Sister May Booth Talmage from headquarters at Liverpool, President Thomas Biggs and all of the traveling missionaries of the District, were also in attendance.

In the morning service an interesting program, consisting of well prepared recitations and dealing with the theme, "Book of Mormon Truths", was presented by members of the Sunday School. Referring to the Book of Mormon, Sister Talmage declared it to be one of the most inspiring books in the world. The Mission President commented upon the splendid arrangement of the program and commended those who took part. He referred to the plain and informal mode of worship of the Latter-day Saints and affirmed that worship is the heartfelt adoration of the soul and not a matter of formalism. He explained that one reason for the opposition to the Church is because Latter-day Saints proclaim the reality of revelation.

At the afternoon gathering President Thomas Biggs presented a general survey of conditions in the local branches and a report of missionary work done in the District during the past six months. His statistical report stated that 16 persons have been baptized since last October; an average force of eight missionaries have devoted 1,383 hours to tracting, have engaged in 3,476 gospel conversations, and have distributed literature as follows: 27,840 tracts, 880 pamphlets, 17 copies of the Book of Mormon and 36 other Church books. The Traveling Elders, with the assistance of the local Priesthood, have held 251 meetings. President Biggs concluded his report by delivering a discourse on the need of revelation.

Elder Raymond Murphy affirmed that this is indeed the Church of Jesus Christ. He then gave evidence to support his attestation by pointing out the fulfilment of prophecies in its establishment and existence. Elder Ezra M. Parry contrasted the progression of the world in material things with its retrogression in matters pertaining to the spiritual life of man. Elder Hilliard L. Rose related interesting incidents in the early history of the Church. The Mission President declared that in order to properly worship it is necessary to understand the nature and character of God. The purpose of the missionaries, he said, is not to ridicule other churches nor to waste time in petty quarrels on matters of unimportance. In concluding he affirmed that these are indeed the last days spoken of by the prophets of God in each dispensation.

In the evening service President Talmage announced that Elder Thomas Biggs has been honorably released from further service as President of the District and that Elder Raymond Murphy has been appointed as his successor.

(*Continued on page 286*)

SOME DAY

Some day, when we're rich and happy
And our dreams have all come true,
We are going to do for Mother
What we've always longed to do.

Some day, we are going to tell her,
When we feel in proper mood,
What she's meant to us, her children;
Of her wondrous power for good.

Some day, we shall see that Mother
Comes into her rightful own,
To the quiet ease and beauty,
That her life has never known.

Some day, when we're not so busy
In the moiling marts of men,
We shall spare and guard and keep her—
But—will Mother be here then?

Estelle Webb Thomas

The true mother, the mother who has the fear of God and the love of truth in her soul, would never hide from danger or evil and leave her child exposed to it. But as natural as it is for the sparks to fly upward, as natural as it is to breathe the breath of life, if there were danger coming to her child she would step between the child and that danger; she would defend her child to the uttermost. Her life would be nothing in the balance, in comparison with the life of her child. That is the love of true motherhood for children.—President Joseph F. Smith.

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR

THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1927

EDITORIAL

YOUR GIFT TO MOTHER

With each recurring springtime the President of the United States, acting by virtue of power delegated to him by Act of Congress in 1914, issues proclamation that one day, usually the second Sunday in May, shall be observed throughout the land as "Mother's Day"; and every year, from the lisping prayers of baby lips to the eloquent eulogies of scholarly orators, a nation declares its love for Mother. With Latter-day Saints, whether they dwell in the valleys of the mountains, on the great plains of the Americas, on the islands of the ocean, or beyond the seas in foreign lands, the day is a memorable one and Mother is honoured and extolled by her sons and daughters.

For many days past heartfelt messages, embracing words of tenderness and devotion, have been speeding over seas and continents to the homes where mothers dwell, carrying words of kindness from sons in foreign lands, not absent in quest of the fame or fortune that the world applauds, but in the line of solemn duty, proclaiming a message that embraces not only love for Mother but for all mankind. These tidings from the absent ones will join with the felicitations of those who remain at home close to her heart—the blessed recipients of her unceasing kindness—and she will be happy that she is thus remembered—on "Mother's Day."

But shall this be our only gift to Mother? Humbly conscious as we are that we can never repay her endless sacrifice and undying love, what can we do that shall bring lasting joy to her soul? The customary white carnation, symbolizing purity and love, will doubtless bring temporary joy to her heart; she will have a thrill of happiness when we express our love; she will be appreciative if we shower upon her words of unstinted praise or send her tokens of remembrance; but these things are not the enduring gifts she wants. In time the carnation will fade and its fragrance be lost, and our protestations of affection and appreciation may soon be forgotten, especially if our later actions demonstrate that they were words spoken to fit the occasion, for Mother will not be deceived by what we say. Some have thought that she is blind to the faults of her son. Let us rather say that with her motherly intuition and observation she is painfully aware of our

weaknesses and misdeeds, but, because of her transcendent love, she forgives and loves us just the same.

We need not search afar to find the gift of greatest worth to Mother. The gift most prized by her is not the one of which she is the direct recipient. No, Mother's joy lies in doing good for others—not in comforts for herself. Mother, the most unselfish of all people, whose life has been one unending sacrifice for her children, will rejoice most in our service to others. She will appreciate our tokens of remembrance and, indeed, will be pained by our ingratitude and neglect if we do not remember her on Mother's Day, but deeper in her heart is the unceasing prayer that her boy will be a valiant soldier in the ranks marshalled against sin. Selfishness is so far removed from her nature that rather than have gifts for herself she wants us to give to others our love, sympathy, kindness, and, above all, our testimony that God lives, that Jesus Christ is the Saviour and Redeemer of the world, and that the Gospel has been restored for the salvation of mankind.

What a responsibility is ours! Each of us holds in trust Mother's happiness or sorrow. According to our actions will she be made to rejoice or be plunged into the sorrow that only mothers know. As Tennyson, the great English poet, has so well said: "There is nothing upon earth more miserable than she who has a son and sees him err."

May we who for the time being are separated from those dear ones who made our earthly existence possible, testify as to the sincerity of our devotion to them and to their teachings by the integrity of our lives! May we be worthy exemplars of that which we profess when we proclaim ourselves ambassadors of Jesus Christ; then shall we in very truth show honour to Mother.
—Waldo L. Osmond.

NINETY-SEVENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

How swift the months have passed away,
'Tis Conference again!
And Zion's untold thousands come
To swell the joyous strain.

These lines are the beginning of a hymn that the Latter-day Saints like to sing. Conferences are of frequent recurrence in the Church, both of local and general status; but the great occasion of the kind, upon which the hearts of Latter-day Saints throughout the world are set, is the Annual Conference of the Church, generally held in Salt Lake City, always in the forepart of April, occupying several days but including the sixth day of the month, which is the anniversary of the organization of the Church in this dispensation as a body corporate.

Beginning on Sunday, April 3rd, this year, the Annual Confer-

ence of the Church opened in the great Tabernacle with an attendance that taxed the capacity of the colossal structure to the utmost, while many other thousands assembled in adjacent buildings, and yet thousands more occupied the open spaces on Temple Block. All who gathered in these general assemblies could hear, as the arrangement of amplifiers and radio speakers carried to them the sweet music of the world-famed choir, the tones of the mighty organ, and the words of those who occupied the pulpit in utterance of sermon or prayer; and yet beyond the city sped the wireless waves to the uncounted hosts, who sat listening, throughout the Intermountain States. It may not be long before our people in the British Isles and those on all the great continents and the isolated islands of the sea may hear the voices of singers and preachers who officiate in the general conferences at the headquarters of the Church.

From the extended accounts published in the Utah papers the following brief summary is compiled. Precisely at 10 o'clock Sunday morning President Heber J. Grant, who stands at the head of the Church as a whole and all that it comprises by way of specific organizations, announced the opening of the proceedings that were to occupy four days. The President's address will be published in these pages, the first instalment appearing in this issue.

President Anthony W. Ivins, who is First Counselor in the Presidency, also spoke during the first session, and in his usually impressive and convincing way showed by undeniable facts that far from there being symptoms of disintegration in the Church, as some writers of fiction and speakers of fibs have rashly and falsely declared, the Church stands to-day unshaken and unshakable. Turning to the subject on which he is recognized as a leading authority in the Church to-day, President Ivins discoursed on the evidences, amounting to demonstration, of the divinity of the Book of Mormon, as a scriptural record brought forth and given to the world in these days by the gift and power of God.

The Church is greater to-day than ever before in its history, said President Charles W. Nibley, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, at the second session of conference. Though the downfall of "Mormonism" has been predicted again and again by the enemies of the Church, the present has ever marked the time of its highest achievement and advancement. While in most religious organizations the membership is composed largely of women, it is not so in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, he affirmed, calling attention to the fact that most of the audience before him were men—strong, forward-looking, determined men, with education distinctly above the average, men of judgment and reason who are not easily deceived. Clothed with the power of the Holy Priesthood they render a service to mankind distinct and apart from that of men not thus commissioned and empowered.

FROM THE APOSTLES

The following summary comprises, in brief epitome, some of the outstanding thoughts expressed by members of the Council of the Twelve in the course of the seven conference sessions.

The birth of the Saviour was heralded by extraordinary manifestations. Though recreant Judah looked eagerly for the time when the Messiah should come to deliver them from the oppression of their foes, they could not believe that the lowly Babe, born in a manger, was the Saviour concerning whom their prophets had spoken. Moreover they were confused in their minds as to the distinctive conditions of the first and the second coming of the Christ. Two advents are definitely specified by prophecy, the second of which will mark His coming in power and great glory to rule and reign among His people.—PRESIDENT RUDGER CLAWSON.

Those who can recall forty or fifty years ago will be impressed with the fact that things are moving rapidly toward the consummation of the work of the Lord. Great changes have come over the earth during that time; wars, earthquakes and pestilences have been visited upon the children of men. Even these disasters, however, in some cases have been overruled to eventual good, for they have brought about conditions whereby the Gospel is more widely spread, and the message has been accepted by many who have been humbled and brought to repentance through adversity.—ELDER GEORGE ALBERT SMITH.

It is the glory of God to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man. The Lord's desire with respect to His children is that they receive this greatest of gifts, and His plan of salvation provides for the attainment of it by all who will obey its requirements. Those who labour in the service of the Lord and attain exaltation can never know the greatest joy until their loved ones are joint heirs with them in the blessings of eternity. —ELDER GEORGE F. RICHARDS.

A common notion about "Mormonism" is that it is a new religion; such a conception is not true. "Mormonism" is older than the ages, for it is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Instituted in the heavens before the world was formed it has come down through the centuries—the drama of the ages, its fundamental truths vouchsafed to the prophets of God in each dispensation. Latter-day Saints do not worship Joseph Smith; they honour him for the mighty prophet that he was, but reverence and worship they offer to God.—ELDER ORSON F. WHITNEY.

Two of the most potent convictions of the Latter-day Saints are the assurances they have that the Gospel of Christ has been restored to earth in its fulness, and that the responsibility rests upon the Church to proclaim the Gospel unto every nation. Since 1837 nearly 40,000 missionaries have gone forth, proclaiming the gospel message, at a cost of over $176,000,000. Is this not

specific evidence of the sincerity of this people?—Elder David O. McKay.

Despite the many remarks to the contrary the young people of the Church of Jesus Christ do possess faith, integrity and a love for the right. The world to-day is full of erroneous systems and doctrines, but if the Saints will follow the divine admonition to stand in holy places and observe the laws of righteousness, the blessings of God through His Gospel will be theirs.—Elder Joseph Fielding Smith.

Scientific discoveries have changed modes of life and have remodeled many phases of human existence. With the rapid progress of the times has come the feeling on the part of many that they are not dependent upon God; but it is as necessary to-day to appeal to heaven for guidance and help in life as it was for our pioneer fathers to appeal for bread. The trend of the times has brought the "world" into the cities of the Latter-day Saints and with it many erroneous and uninspired conceptions of life.—Elder Stephen L. Richards.

There has come a time of peace in regard to the world's attitude toward the Church and a period of comparative prosperity among its members. Though the permanency of the Church is assured by prophetic promise, for some of its members the present is a time of critical test. The Church stands solidly against immorality, personal impurity, which it regards as one of the worst plagues of the world to-day. There can be no compromise with sinful practices, for the disposition to sin a little and lie a little can but bring ultimate slavery under sin.—Elder Melvin J. Ballard.

One of the greatest evidences of the genuineness of the great latter-day work is the gathering of the thousands and thousands of Saints who meet time and time again at the general conferences. The blessings of the Church are within the reach of all—the principles of the Gospel that are given to bring happiness to man in this life and in the life hereafter are for all men if they will but obey them. When we properly begin to comprehend the work of God we begin to get a glimpse of His love for His children.—Elder John A. Widtsoe.

FROM THE PRESIDENTS OF THE SEVENTIES

Nephi's prophecy that the Jews would begin to believe in Christ is realizing fulfilment to-day. Prominent Jewish rabbis have affirmed that Jesus is coming to be universally loved by the Jews. This growing love toward the Saviour, whom they as a people once rejected, will lead to their eventual acceptance of Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah. The prediction of Elder Orson Hyde in 1842, that England would take a leading part in the gathering of the Jews, is likewise being fulfilled.—Elder B. H. Roberts.

The feeling of contentment and self-satisfaction that some drift into is fatal to their spiritual health. If we are to fulfil our destiny as Latter-day Saints we must do our own thinking, gain our own testimony, work out our own salvation. It is folly for us to think we can live on the faith of our pioneer forefathers.—Elder J. Golden Kimball.

No greater work was ever undertaken than that of saving the souls of mankind. Even God, who fashioned the heavens and earth and all they contain, has no greater purpose than the salvation of His children. Even the great universe with all its myriads of planets and satellites is not as great in the sight of God as the redemption and salvation of His children.—Elder Rulon S. Wells.

In the Canadian Mission, opened by Elder Joseph Young, the first Seventy and the first President of Seventies in this dispensation, missionary work is prospering and added success and blessing is confidently anticipated. There is a spirit of fairness in the newspaper accounts dealing with activities of the missionaries.—Elder Charles H. Hart.

At each recurring anniversary of the day on which America entered the Great War, we are reminded of how the mothers in the nations sent forth their sons to battle for the right. The war is over, the hate has been blotted out, and what the world now needs most is a new standard of religion and ethics, not a standard that man can provide, but the Gospel of Jesus Christ.—Elder Levi Edgar Young.

The testimonies borne to-day, none less firm than Job's conviction, are declarations that will bear witness of the truth to any and all who seek earnestly for God. Even the most inspiring testimonies concerning God's work carry no reasons why—they are self-sustaining. They are not conclusions reached by weighing facts nor are they the products of man's deep thought, but are convictions implanted in the soul.—Elder Rey L. Pratt.

FROM THE PRESIDING BISHOPRIC

All things that are definitely established as truth, scientific or divine, are part of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and should be accepted and treasured by every Latter-day Saint.—Elder Sylvester Q. Cannon.

The tillers of the soil have been the bulwarks of society all down through the ages; the decline of the agricultural life in a nation has inevitably produced a concomitant decline in the prosperity of that nation.—Elder David A. Smith.

The ninety-seventh annual conference has marked a significant epoch in Church history. The testimonies proclaiming anew the truth of the great latter-day work have been indeed inspiring.—Elder John Wells.

A BOUNDEN DUTY

President Grant, in his final address, declared that we as a people have one duty that is supreme—that of calling upon the world to repent of sin, to come to God and share the enduring blessings of the Gospel. In bringing the great conference to a close he invoked blessing upon all who are labouring in the cause of truth.

THE WELSH CONFERENCE

(*Concluded from page 279*)

In view of the fact that we accepted the plan of salvation in the council in heaven we by no means ought to reject it here—this was the central thought developed by Elder Albert Brain. Elder Jay M. Booth pointed out that prophets, both ancient and modern, as also many other great men of the world, have come from humble parentage. Elder Harold J. Butcher affirmed the establishment of the Church of Jesus Christ in this dispensation to be a positive fact. Sister Annie E. Brain, who is a regularly appointed missionary, bore testimony to the genuineness of the latter-day message to the world and averred that belief alone is not sufficient to save man. Sister Talmage held that just as a king has the authority to prescribe the rules for those who desire to become his subjects, in like manner has Christ the right to decide the conditions whereby men may enter His Kingdom. In his evening discourse President Talmage defined the term testimony and showed that our testimony is a positive declaration of truth, but is nowise intended as an assailment of others' beliefs. He maintained that the most successful way of reforming man is by teaching him to love heaven rather than to hate hell. He pointed out that each man has the right to his own convictions, referring to the eleventh Article of Faith: "We claim the privilege of worshiping Almighty God according to the dictates of our own conscience, and allow all men the same privilege, let them worship how, where, or what they may." The speaker cited the latter-day revelation which affirms that there is a law irrevocably decreed in heaven upon which all blessings are predicated, and that obedience in practice and application will bring blessings both temporal and eternal. The blessing of remission of sins is predicated upon obedience to the law of baptism, and this must be by immersion and administered by one having divine authority, he averred.

Special musical renditions for the conference were the following: Violin solos by Elder Raymond Murphy accompanied by Mr. Frank Crew; a vocal solo by Mr. William Richards, a vocal duet by Brother and Sister Albert Perry and a quartette by

Brother and Sister Perry, Brother Thomas Griffiths and Sister Christine Bray.

Between the general sessions of the conference special meetings for the missionaries were conducted by President Talmage, at which he heard reports and gave timely instructions. Meetings were also held, under the direction of Sister Talmage, for the M. I. A. officers and the Relief Societies.

The *Western Mail* and the *South Wales News* in their publications of April 25th gave favourable reports of the conference.

EZRA M. PARRY, District Clerk

FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Appointment: Elder Raymond Murphy has been appointed President of the Welsh District to succeed President Thomas Biggs, who has been honourably released.

Transfer: Elder Archibald J. Anderson has been transferred from the Scottish to the Welsh District.

Arrivals and Assignments: The following missionaries arrived in Liverpool on May 1st, on the *Montclare*, and have been thus assigned:

For the British Mission—Arthur T. Coleman, Salt Lake City, Utah, to the Hull District; Lawrence S. Crosbie, Ogden, Utah, to the Leeds District; David M. Davis, Pocatello, Idaho, to the Welsh District.

For the French Mission—Cleo V. Hickman, Castle Dale, Utah.

For the German-Austrian Mission—William B. Taylor, Ogden, Utah.

For the Netherlands Mission—Charles Stephens, Ogden, Utah.

Doings in the Districts: *Manchester*—The M. I. A. of the Oldham Branch entertained an audience of approximately 100 people on April 9th; the hall was decorated in the Mutual colours, green and gold. On April 16th an outing at Heaton Park, Manchester, was enjoyed by a goodly gathering of Latter-day Saints and their friends. A spirit of optimism and enthusiasm characterized the monthly meeting of the Traveling Elders in Manchester on April 16th.

Nottingham—An exceptionally well attended District entertainment was held in the Mechanic's Institute Hall, Nottingham, on April 23rd, 125 people representing all branches in the District being present. Members of the Leicester Branch presented a sketch, and a seven piece orchestra made up of friends of resident members residing in Eastwood provided enjoyable music for the evening.

Wales—Eight persons were received into the Church at a bap-

tismal service held at Goytre, near Abergavenny, on April 18th. President Thomas Biggs and Elder Jay M. Booth officiated in the initial ordinance and the confirmations were administered by President Biggs and Elders Raymond Murphy, Ezra M. Parry, Albert Brain, Harold J. Butcher, Hilliard L. Rose, Jay M. Booth and Richard C. Thomas.

Branch Conferences: Of the Hucknall Branch, Nottingham District, on April 17th. "Easter" was the central thought treated by the speakers. Members of the Sunday School gave a review of the year's lessons in the morning gathering. President Marvin P. Thain and Elders J. William Funk, Samuel Pears and Charles W. Orton took part.

Of the Carlisle Branch, Newcastle District, on April 24th. President Orson H. Berrett and Elders A. Vincen McKay, Harold W. England and Amos B. Robinson gave discourses on the theme of the day, viz., "The Second Coming of Christ."

Of the Liverpool Branch, on April 24th. A program, depicting the rise of the Church in this dispensation and entitled "A Marvelous Work and a Wonder", was the feature in the morning service. *The Liverpool Post and Mercury* gave a concise summary of the proceedings. President David M. Kennedy and Elders Seth W. Pixton, Kenneth A. Nielson, William G. Bennett, Ralph V. Chisholm and Waldo L. Osmond, developed gospel themes.

Of the Mansfield Branch, Nottingham District, on April 24th. President Marvin P. Thain and Elders Lee W. Lund and J. William Funk were the speakers at the conference.

DEATH

BARTON—Sister Lydia H. Barton, aged 76, of the Sheffield Branch, Sheffield District, died on April 16th. Sister Barton has been a faithful member of the Church for 16 years. Funeral services under the direction of President Raymond H. Haight were held at the City Road Cemetery, Sheffield, on April 21st, at which President Haight and Elders Horace L. Barker and James R. Bargh spoke.

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LIVERPOOL

FOR SALE IN ALL THE DISTRICTS OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS IN GREAT BRITAIN